

# The Pocahontas Times.

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## FRONTIER FORTS OF BATH COUNTY.

By J. T. McALLISTER

Reprinted from an old issue of the Bath News.

Withers in his Border Warfare, makes a statement, which is copied by many writers on kindred topics, that when the settlements of the white man had reached the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge, all of that part of Virginia which lies between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghany Mountains was deserted by the Indians. Be that as it may, the country which held such battlefields as that near Millboro Springs, and which had furnished such sites for villages as that near Mountain Grove, on Back creek; that at the McClintic place, on Jackson's river; and that at Covington, was left to the white man without vigorous protest from the former owners. The visitor to the Flat Rock, just opposite the Warm Springs, still has his attention turned to the prominent peak some miles to the east, where tradition says a young Indian maiden watched the terrible battle between two hostile tribes of Indians, in which her lover was engaged; and the flood of 1877 brought light on the Cowpasture river, below Millborough Springs, many evidences of that battle. The memory of living men takes us back of the trees from which the Indians stripped bark for their huts, near Mountain Grove, still stood scarred. Bones of the Indian town are still turned up by the plough on the McClintic place; and Mr. Frank Lyman, the recent owner has in his New York residence the many Indian relics excavated while digging the foundation for the Covington Iron Furnace. Vacated by the Indians, when the white man had reached the eastern base of the Blue Ridge, this country may have been; but visited by the savages it still was, and with a vengeance so swift and terrible that Governor Dinwiddie, in his home at old Williamsburg, wrote his vigorous letters in vain to the County Lieutenants, threatening to retake the lands in this section in the name of the Crown unless the settlers would stay at home and beat back the tide of Indian warfare.

As early as 1700 we find the House of Burgesses adopting provisions for planting a colony in this region to serve as a barrier against Indian incursions. Special directions are made for the erection of a fort on every two hundred acres of land, to be armed by "able, warlike Christian men, equipped each with a well-fixed musquette or fuzee, a good piccol, sharp simeter, towahawk, and five pounds of good clean pistol powder and twenty pounds of sizable leaden bullets or swan or goose shot." This effort proved fruitless. It was probably as late as 1749 that the first settlement in this county was made. This was on the river called by the Indians Wallawhatoola, but changed by the settlers to the less musical name of the Cowpasture. Of necessity several families came together, in order to afford mutual protection in case of attack. Whether they west with a Bible in one hand and a rifle in the other we do not know; but that Dickenson's Fort was soon thereafter built several miles from Millborough Springs, while a log church was erected near by, we do know; and we also know that in this church (now, in its new site, called Windy Cove Presbyterian Church) the people worshipped with gun in hand, while a sentinel paced before the church door. About this time a small fort was

built at Green Valley, ten miles above this point, and still another at what was called Fort Lewis, five miles above Green Valley, the remains of which are still visible.

Burke, in his work on the Virginia Springs, states that the land upon which the Warm Springs stand was patented to the Lewis family in 1700. This date is certainly wrong. As early as 1748 we see, from records in deeds recorded at Warm Springs, that Andrew Lewis had laid claim to some lands along the Cowpasture river by virtue of grants from the members of the Board or Council. As we have said, settlement was made along the Cowpasture, only ten miles to the east of Warm Springs, as early as 1749. We have an authentic statement that people fled from the Warm Springs in 1756, after Braddock's defeat. It has even been asserted, but, as we speak without any authority, that there were guests at these Springs in 1755. Be that as it may, there were certainly people living there in 1755. We can well presume that the enterprising Lewis family did not wait until after that event to lay patents on what is the best land in this valley.

But to return to the settlements along the Cowpasture: The settlements were not left undisturbed. Soon after Braddock's defeat, in 1758, a party of Indians made a raid through his section and killed some persons at the Green Valley Fort. The bodies of the victims were buried a short distance west of where the present Green Valley house (now occupied by the late Mrs. Chas. Lewis) stands, and the turnpike road leading from the Warm Springs to Harrisonburg passes immediately over their graves. The settlers fled to Eastern Augusta for better protection. Several years later, returned thinking themselves secure, again the Indians made a raid, and a family named Mayse were attacked at their homes on Cowpasture river. The mother and a son and a white woman, whose name I have been unable to learn, was carried off. A party of pursuers, headed by the Col. Chas. Lewis who rendered such eminent service in the French and Indian wars, ending in his noble death at Point Pleasant, followed the party in their flight, and overtook them near Marlinton, in what is now Pocahontas county. The boy was recaptured, but the woman was not, but were carried on to the banks of the Scioto river, to pass through experiences scarcely surpassed by those which befell Mrs. Mary Ingels. Through two hundred miles of unbroken forests, over rocks and streams, these women were forced to walk. After being kept by the Indians for some months, and having gained their confidence, they took advantage of permission to gather berries, and started to make their way home. Avoiding the many dangers, and after a weary trip, in which they passed through Pennsylvania, these two women succeeded in reaching the Cowpasture river. Twenty years later, this same Mrs. Mayse, upon learning that this son was wounded in the battle of Point Pleasant, journeyed alone through the forests to that point and brought him home. Such dangers as these could not deter such men as Lewis and Dickenson. Having built their forts, and left their families they pushed westward, spying out the land and laying patent rights to portions of best land in this section and along the Kanawha River. We have already stated that the Lewis family must have patented the lands on which the Warm Springs are located prior to 1755, and the records of a suit in Bath

county show what tracts of land Colonel John Dickenson laid claim to in Bath, Greenbrier and Kanawha Counties.

A recent article in the Southern States Magazine has called attention to the historical interest attaching to the Cowpasture River, "whose banks for miles and miles and miles were the scenes of heroism, American heroism," whose annals would well bear comparison with those of the lower James. Interesting and important as are the personal items which hang about the name of the Cowpasture and the Jackson, the writer must leave them for another time and present in this article only those personal incidents which have heretofore remained unpublished. For the time would fail me to tell of Charles Lewis and of Jehu Dickinson, and of Charles Cameron, and of Jacob Warwick and of Andrew Lockridge and of George Poage, and of Joseph Gwinn, and of many others, both officers and men, whose boyhood and manhood were but a constant struggle with an enemy who knew no truce and whose tenderest mercies were blows from their tomahawks; they repelled attacks upon their homes, led in the hot and dangerous pursuits after such foes, to rescue mothers, wives and children; pushed through the gaps of the nearer mountains; forced back the line of savage warfare in the decisive battle at Point Pleasant; employed their furloughs from the Revolutionary service of fighting the British on the seacoast, in defending their homes against the dusky ally of the British in the mountains.

Young men assisted in the defence of the forts; women were dragged from their homes to see their infants torn in pieces or dashed to death by a foe who knew no sex; forced to march hundreds of miles to a captivity that lasted for years; their daughters married to Indian chiefs; their children separated from them forever; their husbands murdered; and, if perchance they did escape, waited for the return of loved ones till death should end their waiting. Are not all these things recorded?

The exact date when a fort built on Jackson's river, five miles west of the Warm Springs, cannot be ascertained, but it was visited by George Washington in the year 1755, who came from the fort Cumberland through the mountains on tour of inspection. This fort was called at different times Dinwiddie's fort Warwick's Fort Hog's Fort and Byrd's Fort, and it played a very considerable part in the French and Indian war.

The editor of Dinwiddie Letters published by the Virginia Historical society in a note says that the Fort Edward was situated on Warm Springs mountain. This is clearly a mistake. This Fort is located by several writers as being on Capon river between Winchester and Romney. That these writers are correct will be seen by examining the correspondence of Governor Dinwiddie and Col. Geo. Washington in the month of April 1756. But to return to Fort Dinwiddie.

This fort was built in the early part of the administration of Gov. Dinwiddie. It was located, and remnants of the old site may still be seen on the Erwin place on Jackson's river, about one mile above where the Warm Springs and Huntersville turnpike crosses Jackson's river, and opposite the Gap through which said turnpike road passes over Back Creek mountain. The records show that it was garrisoned during the open months of the year from 1755 to 1758. Captain Peter Hog, the great friend of Gov. Dinwiddie, was in command here in 1756. Afterwards Capt. Audley Paul commanded. Later Captains Jno

Lewis, Robert McCreary, Hicklin, Andrew Lockridge, Poage and others. It was twenty miles west of Fort Dinwiddie and only six miles from the eastern foot of the Alleghany. The structure of all these forts seems to have been the same—a stockade made of logs placed closely together and set in the ground. Within the stockade thus made there was a passage-way. In Fort Dinwiddie there was an underground passage-way, paved with logs, from the back of the stockade, and leading to a spring within the stockade, sufficiently high to allow a man to walk within and carry water without being fired upon by the Indians. This underground passage-way was only recently filled up.

Fort Dinwiddie was one of the chain of forts which Gov. Dinwiddie sought to have built as a protection to Virginia's frontiers, but which afterwards proved so annoying in his effort to wage war upon the Indians. Secured by such forts the settlers preferred staying at home and protecting their families to waging an aggressive warfare. Gov. Dinwiddie's heaviest criticisms fell on the shoulders of West Augusta men for this and other reasons full set out in his letters to Peter Hog. These forts were garrisoned only during the open months of the year. The account which the writer has recently found spread on the records of Pocahontas County Court, of like character to those published in the Virginia Magazine of History, show the manner of service rendered by the soldiers placed in these forts. Two men, provisioned for three or four days, were sent out in each

They were under strict orders not to build a fire in any event, and to return to the fort within the three or four days, unless they had reports to make earlier. They had to watch the gaps or low place in the mountain chains and in some cases had to cover a distance of thirty miles. As soon as these parties returned other parties were sent in their place.

In their battles with Indians they seldom fought from the forts but leaving in these the women and weaker men, they fought the enemy in ways learned from them and had proved by experience; from behind logs and trees, lying in ambush. Jacob Warwick's company captured fifteen of the party of Indians returning from one of the Kerrs Creek massacres. To such men, inured from childhood to dangers, and taught by experience and the instinct of self preservation the best modes of warfare. Governor Dinwiddie's letters of instructions as to the best methods of fighting their foes, written in his home at Williamsburg, must have sounded most stupid. He who will take notice of the successful warfare, of the personal daring, and the personal interests of such men, will be more disposed to bear patiently with their shortcomings and their independence of the "rules of war" than was that nominal leader of the Virginia forces.

Frequent were raids by the Indians through the section guarded by Fort Dinwiddie. During one of these raids in September 1756 or 1757 the families who usually sought protection there were warned of the approaching danger. The Byrds delayed their flight and the older members of that family were killed within site of the fort, John Bird, aged eight years, and his sister were captured. His sister was married to an Indian chief and was never seen again. After eight years John Byrd was recaptured. He wore a gold chain suspended from his nose and both ears. He twice tried to return to the Indians, who had promised to make him a chief, but was pre-

vented. He died in 1836. He was the grandfather of John T. Byrd, recently a member of the legislature from Bath. At some late date, but prior to 1777, a small fort called Vance's Fort was built at Back creek, at the point Mt. Grove. This fort was six miles west of Fort Dinwiddie and just at the foot of the slopes of the Alleghany. It was garrisoned for a short time during that year, but as to whether it was ever used again the records are silent.

These are all the frontier forts within what is now the limits of Bath county. As originally laid off in 1790 it included a large portion of what is now Alleghany, Pocahontas and Highland Counties. In the first of these at Covington there was Fort Young, which was built by Peter Hog in 1756, who was ordered by Col. Geo. Washington to leave Lt. Bluel in command of Fort Dinwiddie and build a line of forts southward from that point, twenty or thirty miles apart, according to specifications furnished by Col. Washington. Fort Young was to be another of the line of forts so devotedly sought after by Governor Dinwiddie. In Pocahontas County there was one fort at Clover Lick, another at Greenbank, and still another in the Levels. These were all situated in Bath County in 1790. In Highland, in the original limits of Bath, there was Wilson's Stockade. In addition to these there were such fortified houses as Carpenter's, near Covington, and Moses Man's Stockade on Jackson's River.

Commissioner's Office, Marlinton, W. Va.

vs. Hoererman Lumber Company and others.

Pursuant to authority vested in me by a decree of the Circuit Court of Pocahontas county, West Virginia, entered in the above styled cause on the 6th day of October, 1908, I will proceed at my office in the Town of Marlinton, W. Va. on the 17th day of November to take state and report the following matters of account to-wit:

1st. The debts due by the Hoererman Lumber Company to and with their respective amounts and priorities.

2nd. The property owned by the Hoererman Lumber Company with its value, location and description, together with the lien thereon.

3rd. A settlement of the accounts of Andrew Price, special receiver in this cause.

4th. Any matter not specially stated deemed pertinent by the commissioner or any party in interest at which time and place you all may attend.

T. S. McNEEL, Commissioner.

To all persons holding liens by judgment or otherwise, on the real estate, or any part thereof, of Hoererman Lumber Company.

In pursuance of a decree of the circuit court of Pocahontas county, made in a cause therein pending, to subject the real estate of the said Hoererman Lumber Co. to the satisfaction of the liens thereon, you are hereby required to present all claims held by you and each of you against the said Hoererman Lumber Co. which are liens on their real estate, or any part of it, for adjudication to me, at my office in the town of Marlinton, West Virginia, on or before the 17th day of Nov. 1908. Given under my hand this 16th day of Oct. 1908.

T. S. McNEEL, Commissioner.

## Forestry in Japan.

Just at the time this country is beginning to struggle with the problem of husbanding its forest resources, of protecting its mountain slopes, and of improving its waterways, it is interesting to know that the Japanese have successfully attacked the same problem, before the land suffered severely from the evil effects following deforestation. The foresighted people of Nippon have seen the results of the destruction of their extensive mountain forests, and have safeguarded themselves by placing all these under government control.

The practice of forestry has been carried on in Japan longer than any other country. For 1200 years the people of Japan have been planting and growing forests, with a success that has been a little short of marvelous. Under careful management, the Japanese forests yield very high financial returns. This high yield is only made possible by the close utilization of every bit of the tree so that scarcely a twig is wasted and by improvement of the growth of their forests by carefully conducted thinning and tending. The woods are first thinned at the age of thirteen years, and then every five years after that up to the time of final harvest, at 120 years.

It was opening of the hitherto inaccessible mountain forests that the Japanese government became more intensely interested in forestry. The mountains were still government land, so all that was necessary to protect was to place proper restrictions on the sale and cutting of timber. This was effected by declaring

the forests on the steep slopes as reserved lands, in which the only cutting should be under government direction. The forests on agricultural, not needed for protection are classed as available forests and here cutting is not so carefully restricted.

Thus Japan has effectually prevented the stripping of her mountain slopes before any great damage has been done. Indistinctly where the mountains are near the towns, the steep slopes have already been cleared, and this has resulted in floods and the washing down of the soil from the slopes or to the farm lands. But these cases have been exceptional, and merely served as a warning; which Japan has heeded before it was late to prevent widespread destruction.

## Busted the Whiskey Wagon.

Last Monday evening a number of the women of our town met what a man named Conley terms an express wagon, a short distance below town and holding up the driver proceeded to smash up a lot of whiskey jugs bottles etc.

Conley a saloon keeper at Gauley Bridge is reported to have gotten out of humor because the mail hackman refused to carry and deliver whiskey to Conley's customers along the line the Summersville and Gauley Bridge mail route. He said that he lost hundreds of dollars because the mail people would not carry his whiskey for him. He then put a hack on the road and said he would carry passengers at half rates and express from Belva to this place. He made three or four trips and each brought in a lot of bad whiskey. Our people heard that he would be due at our place last Monday evening and several of the women of the town quietly prepared to take matters in hand. The result was that Conley's driver did not deliver his goods to his customers Nicholas County has no saloon and her people do not intend to permit traveling saloon to be put on her public roads.—Nicholas Chronicle.

## Buffalo, Wild and Tame.

From the Yellowstone National Park comes the interesting news that the tame Buffalo herd there now numbers seventy four individuals, of which fourteen are calves. This herd, started by Major John P. Fitch five or six years ago has grown in a most gratifying way. Its value has been increased by the addition to it of a few calves captured from the original wild bunch.

It is extremely interesting to know as we are informed by T. Ellwood Hofer of the Yellowstone National Park that late in September while driving from the Yellowstone Lake into Gardiner, he saw seven wild buffalo, one of them a calf. The buffalo did not seem shy, and while the team was close to them the calf went up to the largest buffalo in the bunch which the observers thought was a bull—and nursed. The last seen of the group they were going back up the hill from the river, in the direction of the open country known as Hayden Valley.

The increase in the tame buffalo herd in the National Park, which has been paralleled in a number of other cases, tends force to appeals for funds with which to purchase the herd to stock the Montana preserve. A herd established on the old Flathead reservation in Montana will certainly increase rapidly and will furnish another center from which fresh buffalo blood may be distributed over the country.

## Forest and Stream.

### Resolutions of Respect.

At a meeting of Huntersville lodge No. 65 A. F. & A. M. held in their hall on the night of the 6th day of November 1908, the following resolutions of respect were unanimously adopted.

Almighty we are called upon to mourn the loss of our beloved brother, Amos Barlow whose death occurred at his home in Huntersville, on the 1st day of November 1908, at 10 a. m. there fore be it resolved.

First—That our lodge has been deprived of a devoted and useful member and his family of a kind and loving husband and parent. Second—That while in the death of this worthy brother our lodge has sustained so great a loss we humbly bow in submission to the will of our heavenly Grand Master in whose being we live and by whose guidance and wisdom our existence is sustained.

Third—That we extend the bereaved family our heartfelt sympathy in their sorrow and that our prayers are for the comforting influence of the Holy Spirit to be with them and guide them through the trying hours of their bereavement.

Fourth—That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the widow of our deceased brother also to The Pocahontas Times for publication.

Respectfully submitted. W. H. GOSH, S. P. CUREY, J. O. CARRY.

## Administrator's Notice.

All persons having claims against the estate of C. A. Rhea, dec'd., are hereby notified to present the same properly proven to the undersigned sheriff of Pocahontas County, and as such administrator of said estate. J. S. McNamee, Admr. C. A. Rhea, dec'd.

## NOTICE.

All persons are hereby notified not to post bills or advertisements of any kind or character upon the poles of the owner, undersigned telephone Company, Marlinton, W. Va. Academy Mutual Telephone Co.